IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier version and listings.

1. (currently amended): A data processing apparatus comprising:

an instruction input unit, arranged to input a manual instruction by [[the]] an operator;

a process unit, arranged to execute a predetermined process based on the instruction input by said instruction input unit;

a connection unit, arranged to connect with an external device;

a storage unit, arranged to store message data and time information received from the external device through said connection unit;

a display unit, arranged to display a message based on the message data stored in said storage unit;

a discrimination unit, arranged to discriminate whether or not there has elapsed, without the manual instruction being input by the operator, ~~is not input for~~ a period of time which is designated by the time information received from the external device and stored in said storage unit; and

a control unit, arranged to control said display unit to start displaying ~~information~~ the message based on the message data stored in said storage unit, in response to the discriminated result provided by said discrimination unit that no manual instruction by the operator has been input for the period of time,

wherein said storage unit is also arranged to store limitation information which was selectively transmitted from the external device and received through said connection unit, and which limits the ability to delete the message displayed on said display unit, and

wherein said control unit permits deletion of the display of the message on said display unit in response to the manual instruction by the operator to said instruction input unit in a case where said storage unit does not store the limitation information, and limits deletion of the display of the message on said display unit in response to the manual instruction by the operator to said instruction input unit in a case where said storage unit stores the limitation information.

2. (currently amended): A data processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said process unit is also arranged to execute plural process functions, said display unit displays a display image frame different for each process function executed by said process unit, ~~and said control unit controls the display based on the message data received from the external device through said connection unit and stored in said storage unit, according to the display image frame for which the information is intended~~ the message data is associated with any one of the plural process functions, and said control unit controls to display the message based on the message data to the display image frame of the associated process function.

3. (currently amended): A data processing apparatus according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein said display unit is adapted to display a display image frame of ~~information~~

message based on the message data received from the external device through said connection unit and stored in said storage unit, and an operation image frame for input by said instruction input unit.

4. (currently amended): A data processing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein ~~said display unit is adapted to display first display information to be displayed in place for the operation image frame for input by said instruction input unit, based on the message data received from the external device through said connection unit and stored in said storage unit, and second display information to be displayed in the operation image frame~~ the message data includes first message data to be displayed in place of the operation image frame for input by said instruction input unit and second message data to be displayed in the operation image frame, and said display unit changes over and displays the message based on the first message data and the message based on the second message data.

5. (currently amended): A data processing apparatus according to claim[[s]] 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein said control unit receives, by MIB (management information base), message data ~~for the information to be displayed by said display unit and stored in said storage unit~~, and executes reception from the external device through said connection unit according to SNMP (simple network management protocol).

6. (currently amended): A data processing apparatus according to claim[[s]] 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein said control unit receives, as electronic mail data, message data

~~of the information to be displayed by said display unit~~, from the external device through said connection unit and stored in said storage unit.

7. (currently amended): A previously presented): A data processing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said control unit receives message data ~~of the information to be displayed by said display unit and stored in said storage unit~~, according to SMTP (simple mail transfer protocol)/POP (post office protocol).

8. (currently amended): A data processing apparatus according to claim[[s]] 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein said display unit is capable of displaying ~~information~~ the message based on the message data of plural display colors, and said control unit is adapted to vary the display color according to the priority contained in the message data received from the external device through said connection unit and stored in said storage unit.

9. (previously presented): A data processing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said storage unit comprises an accumulation unit for storing plural files, wherein said control unit is adapted to cause said display unit to display information indicating the file accumulated in said accumulation unit, with different display color according to the attribute of the file.

10. to 14. (cancelled).

15. (currently amended): A control method for a data processing apparatus capable of executing a predetermined process based on a manual instruction by [[the]] an operator and displaying various information on a display device, comprising:

a reception step of receiving message data transmitted from an external device;

a storing step of storing the message data and time information received from the external device;

a discrimination step of discriminating or not any manual instruction by the operator is not input for a period of time which is designated by the time information received from the external device and stored in said storing step; and

a control step of ~~control~~ controlling the display device to start displaying ~~information~~ a message based on the message data stored in the storage unit, in response to the discriminated result provided by performance of said discrimination step that no manual instruction by the operator has been input for the period of time,

wherein the storage unit can store limitation information which was selectively transmitted from the external device and received through a connection unit connected with the external device, and which indicates to limit to delete the message displayed on the display device, and

wherein said control step permits deletion of the display of the message on the display device in response to the manual instruction by the operator in a case where the limitation information is not stored in the storage unit, and permits limitation on deleting the display of the message on the display device in response to the manual instruction by the operator in a case where the limitation information is stored in the storage unit.

16. and 17. (cancelled).

18. (currently amended): A computer readable memory medium storing a program for controlling a data processing apparatus capable of executing a predetermined process based on a manual instruction by [[the]] an operator and displaying various information on a display device, the program comprising:

a reception step of receiving message data transmitted from an external device;

a storing step of storing the message data and time information received from the external device;

a discrimination step of discriminating or not any manual instruction by the operator is not input for a period of time which is designated by the time information received from the external device and stored in said storing step; and

a control step of ~~control~~ controlling the display device to start displaying ~~information~~ a message based on the message data stored in the storage unit, in response to the discriminated result provided by performance of said discrimination step that no manual instruction by the operator has been input for the period of time,

wherein the storage unit can store limitation information which was selectively transmitted from the external device and received through a connection unit connected with the external device, and which indicates to limit to delete the message displayed on the display device, and

wherein said control step permits deletion of the display of the message on the display device in response to the manual instruction by the operator in a case where the

limitation information is not stored in the storage unit, and permits limitation on deleting the display of the message on the display device in response to the manual instruction by the operator in a case where the limitation information is stored in the storage unit.

19. and 20. (cancelled).